

SOUTHEASTERN NEWS

Office of Communications
Southeastern Baptist
Theological Seminary

Wake Forest
North Carolina 27587
(919) 556-3101

Assistant to the President
Rodney V. Byard
Home Phone
(919) 556-1485

February 26, 1985

SEMINARY FACULTY VOICES SUPPORT FOR ORDAINED WOMAN PASTOR

Wake Forest, N.C. - In a response to controversy over Home Mission Board financial support for an ordained woman pastor, the faculty of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary has adopted unanimously a statement of affirmation of her ministry.

Debra Griffis-Woodberry, a 1977 graduate of the Seminary, was called recently as pastor by the Broadneck Baptist Mission, Annapolis, Md. Under the arrangement of her employment, a portion of her salary will be paid by the Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention. After approving her salary supplement, the Home Mission Board was criticized for its support of an ordained woman. The criticism follows the adoption of a resolution at the 1984 Southern Baptist Convention which discouraged churches from ordaining women.

In the faculty statement, Griffis-Woodberry who earned two degrees at Southeastern was cited as having "distinguished herself as a scholar, as a minister-in-training, and as a Christian person in her preparation here." The statement also said "she has served with competence on our instructional staff," and had done "excellent work" in two Raleigh, N.C. congregations.

"Given this significant history," the statement continued, "we affirm the Home Mission Board's recent approval of her for church pastoral assistance." Further, the faculty said "she lives out in her pastoral work qualities of ministry we value highly," among which were "commitment to the Lordship of Jesus Christ," "able preaching," and "evangelistic concern."

SEBTS

*Note: Carried
by BP 3-11-85
RVPB*

